

Belmont Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes Report

<i>Date & Time:</i>	April 1, 2009. 7:00PM	
<i>Present:</i>	Michael Smith, Co-chair Historic District Commission	<i>Absent:</i>
	Richard Cheek, Co-chair HDC	Nancy Richards
	Lydia Ogilby, HDC member	Peter Gunness
	Lisa Harrington, HDC member	
	Allan Vanderley, HDC member	
	Richard Pichette, HDC member	
	Arleyn Levee, HDC member	
	Joe Cornish, HDC member	<i>Distribution:</i>
<i>By:</i>	Paul Bell, HDC member	All members
		Office of the Town
		Administrator

<i>Item:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Action:</i>
1.	<u>Update on Commission Appointments:</u> The Belmont Board of Selectmen have appointed Mr Joe Cornish and Ms Lauren Meier as members of the BHDC. Joe was appointed as a full member to the BHDC and Ms Meier was appointed as an alternate member. Additionally, Ms Arleyn Levee, an alternate BHDC member, was elevated to a full membership.	HDC
2.	<u>Update on the Rehabilitation of the Central Fire Station:</u> The owner of the Central Fire Station restaurant, Leon DeMagistris, agreed to paint the newly installed aluminum Leonard Street windows / doors the required color green as soon as conditions allow [temperature / dust] A "soft" opening will occur in a few weeks before the formal "Grand" opening, thought to be in late April.	L.D'M.
3.	<u>Review Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior handrails at 6 Stella Road:</u> Mr Will Brownsberger presented a proposal for a new black iron hand rail for his front porch/steps, which was unanimously approved by BHDC members.	
4.	<u>Update on effort to preserve the Benton Library as a Town Building:</u> to find new community	

	<p>uses, and to have the Massachusetts Historical Commission declare the building eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p><u>4.1 Reuse committee:</u> A Town appointed "Benton Building Reuse Committee" had its first meeting today.</p> <p><u>4.2 MHC Review:</u> Historical photographs of the library have been resubmitted to the MHC for their review.</p>	
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5.	<p><u>Update on preliminary plans to develop the Our Lady of Mercy site:</u></p> <p><u>5.1 Developer:</u> The developer proposes to demolish all structures on the site that is in conflict with the wishes of the working neighborhood group.</p> <p><u>4.2 Future meetings:</u> The developer has agreed to return to a future neighborhood group meeting with a revised plan. To date the developer has not been very responsive to neighbor's suggestions.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Update on the effort to preserve historic landscapes at the Uplands:</u> Mr Mike Smith has recently talked to Ms Betsy Friedberg and Mr Chris Skelly. They referred Mike to MHC's Mr Tim Hollis.</p>	MHC
7.	<p><u>Discuss BHDC organizational strategies:</u> Mr Mike Smith discussed a draft of recently developed BHDC organizational notes. These notes assigned area of specialization to individual members as well as liaison roles to town and community groups. Subjects needing action by the BHDC where also outlined with responsible BHDC members noted. These organization notes will be developed over the next few weeks with the hope of using this referenced outline as a tool for BHDC future work.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Member Retirement:</u> The many years of dedicated work by both Ms Lydia Ogilby and Mr Richard Cheek was acknowledged by the membership. Both Lydia and Richard have shown Belmont that historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, maintaining community charter, and educating citizens about the Town's heritage. They have both provided the leadership and hard work that has set a firm foundation for the continuation of preserving the historic assets of the Town of Belmont and we all deeply thank them for their selfless service. While not being active members of the commission they will however remain available for special projects and consultation as Chairmen Emeriti.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Meeting Minutes Approval:</u> The [month of] March meeting minutes were approved as submitted</p>	HDC
10.	<p><u>Old or New Business:</u></p> <p><u>10.1 Co-chair nomination:</u> With Richard Cheek's retirement Paul Bell was nominated and elected Co-chair of the BHDC.</p>	HDC

	<u>10.2 CPA meeting:</u> No new issues or movement was made due to consensus building necessary among interest groups.	TBD
<u>11.</u>	<u>Next Meetings:</u> 11.1 May.....Wednesday, May 6, 2009 11.2 June.....Wednesday, June,5,2009	HDC HDC
<u>12.</u>	<u>Meeting adjourned</u>9:20PM	

END OF MEETING